

Page 15, line 2, cancel "9 and 10" and insert --10 and 11--.

Page 16, line 10, cancel "spout" and insert --annular side wall--.

Page 17, line 1, after "process" insert --,--.

Page ~~17~~, line 16, cancel "body" and insert

--horizontal flange--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 12 and 13.

REMARKS

This U.S. patent application is a national filing from PCT/GB99/1094. Enclosed for information only is a copy of the 5-page INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (Form PCT/IPEA/409) that was received in that PCT application.

As the Examiner will see, claim 1 was rejected as lacking novelty in view of EP-A-126 575, and claims were rejected as lacking an inventive step in view of DE-A-43 40 553 and EP-A-0 755 971.

An important function of the present invention is to achieve a good seal between a blow-molded bottle (having a tolerance in the order of 0.3mm) and an injection-molded cap (having a tolerance in the order of 0.1 mm) (see for example page 2, lines 3-15 of the present specification).

In a new, unusual and not-obvious manner, the present invention solves this problem by providing (1) a thin-wall extrusion blow molded bottle, (2) an injection-molded cap, and (3) an injection-molded neck assembly whose open bottom is fused to the bottle and whose open top removably carries the cap.

Additional features of the invention are a foil-type seal that is carried by the open bottom of the neck assembly, and a manually pullable assembly by which this foil-type seal can be removed, thus opening the bottle, including foil-cutting teeth that are carried adjacent to the open bottom of the neck assembly.

Document EP-A-126 575 merely describes a bottle 101 that is made up of a cylindrical center portion 102, a top portion 103 that is friction welded (spin welded) to the top edge of center portion 102, and a bottom section 104 that is friction welded (spin welded) to the bottom edge of center portion 102.

In the embodiment of FIG. 7, and after liquid filling of the can body 302, a flat closure top 305 is friction welded in place on the top of body 302, this top 305 including a tear-open tab (see claim 3).

Document DE-A-43 40 553 (D1) (English translation not available) appears to describe a foil 10 that is attached to a pivotable member 20, such that pivoting of member 20 from its FIG. 1 position to its FIG. 2 position causes teeth 17 to cut foil 10.

Document EP-A-0 755 871 (D2) (English translation not available) appears to describe a comparable closure.

Document WO 96/14249 describes a pour-spout 10 that is mounted onto a liquid-filled container without the need to make an opening in the container. Pour-spout 10 includes a membrane seal 20 whose bottom surface is attached to the top surface of a scored portion of the container. When seal 20 is removed by an upward or a downward movement thereof, the scored

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portion of the container is likewise removed. A cap 14 is removably attached to pour spout 10.

It is respectfully submitted that these documents, where taken solely or in combination, do not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention wherein an injection-molded neck assembly has its open bottom fused adjacent to the opening of a thin wall and extrusion blow molded bottle, with an injection-molded cap then being removably mounted to close the open top of the neck assembly.

Request:

Allowance of this amended application is respectfully requested.

Signed this 22 day of November, 2000

Respectfully submitted,



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